

The Cleansing of the Leper Mark 1:40-45

Mark is a book of Miracles but does that mean that it has no teaching?



The Story of this Leper is the story of every lost sinner saved by Grace.

I. A Diseased Scene (vs 40) - Dr Larry Brown

"If there's a nut in 50 mile radius he'll find me." This seems to be the case w/ Jesus. Because of his ability ^{draw not mentally} ^{progressed but} ^{morally disease}

A. He was an Appalling Sight - Leprosy a retitling foreign bible word for us but to 1st Century society a dreadful & hideous disease of progressive hideous sores that grew and burst into corruption covering the whole body, causing a hideous disfigurement causing infected to look more alien than human

A disease of inches... of time... of madness.. EG Mark
B. He was Approaching the Sanitarians - Because of its contagious nature, they were exiled, outcast "Unclean", "Unclean". But here we find him not running away but approaching ^{"OK - Face to Face"} someone. Could

As the reasons of a healer reached his ears. Could it be his eyes gazed upon a lone friend walking by? Who did? Lepers sick of our condition running from ^{death}.

C. He was Appealing in Sorrow - beseeching a desperate urgent plea. "If thou wilt" 2 kinds - "to be willing in one's emotions" or "to be willing by reason." He didn't want logic or reason. He wanted mercy. He appealed to the "kindheartedness" of Jesus. He has no doubt of the Saviour's ability but concerned only with willingness. Compare last

II. A Divine Saviour (vs 41-43) - But thank God there is a Saviour for such a terrible condition. Mark is a book of miracles. Does that mean it's just a hand book for the miracle worker?

A. A Tender Compassion - The desperate cry of this leprous man did not fall on deaf ears! But the heart of a righteous and holy God put forth in mercy. When the law says judgment + rejection. God has ^{repentant heart} mercy.

B. A Touch of Contact - "put forth..." compassion led to action. We know from some of the miracles of Jesus that touch was not necessary to convey healing. No this touch was a touch of compassion. "No doubt this was the first leaving"

C. A Truthful Compliance - As Jesus reached out the leper's doubts of the willingness of Jesus were laid to rest. "I Will..." God has made his willingness clear. 2 Peter 3:9 "God is not willing..." 1 Tim 2:4, Luke 13:34. He is willing to save the unbeliever

Miracles are gospel parables. On author writes: "His healing of the blind portrayed his illumination of darkened hearts. His calming of the storm told of his power to bring peace to bring peace to troubled hearts, raising the dead proclaimed his life giving power, His feeding of the 5000 spoke of his being the bread of life."

EG Masterson – "No other disease reduces a human being for so many years to so hideous a wreck. "

Comparison of leprous man to lost sinner – Lev. 13:3 Leprosy is deeper than the skin. Same with sin, clean him up all you want, he is still rotting and dying down deep. Lev. 13:5-8 – Leprosy spreads. Sin spreads from stealing bubble gum, to rape and murder. Lev. 13:44-46 – Leprosy defiles and separates from others. It isolates. So does sin isolate us from our friends and families and most importantly from our God. Lev. 13: 47-59 – Indicates that leprosy from his clothes on down to his person is fit only for the burning.

...No doubt this was the first loving touch this leper had felt in a long time.

1 Timothy 2:4 God is one ..."who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Luke 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

..demanded by the law but it also demonstrated to Lord. Warren Wiersby called it "a beautiful picture in type of the work of redemption."

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D. A Total Cleansing - Be thou clean. The
small voice which said let there be light and
there was light instantly not five million years
later, This same voice... and instantly clean, ^{image}
^{a metamorphosis} rolling robe sleeve back expecting sores from skin.

III. A Demonstrating Ceremony (vs 44) Then
there are some puzzling words. Go to the
priest, at the temple, and give an offering? Almost
out of place. What's going on. Well it was demanded by

A. Vital Incarnation - Lev 14. The cleansed
leper to take 2 birds and one was to be forced
into a a clay jar. This is in type a picture
of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus. Picturing
him coming down from heaven into confines of ^{body} human.

B. Vicarious Crucifixion - While in the
jar the priest took a knife and killed the
bird over running or living spring water.
The blood would be mixed with the water
and sprinkled on the cleansed leper. This is death
of Jesus.

C. Victorious Resurrection - The blood
& water mixture was also applied to the 2nd
bird who was then set free! The blood
a reminder of the price paid for freedom.
This is in type the resurrection of Jesus, who was ^{raised victorious from} dead.

D. Visible Ascension - Once set free the
bird would ascend into the heavens
back from whence it came. Glory to God
if any sinful leper is going to be cleansed
its going to be at the expense of the death ^{hurl}.

IV. A Delouring Situation (vs 45) But...

But... Put on the brake Take. Something ^{will be put into} terribly wrong. This was a Detour of the perfect

A. Sincere Disobedience - It does not read in text that he went and did as he was commanded to do. As instead of going to priest he went about publishing. Now before we get indignant, put yourself in his shoes... Don't get me wrong I am all for Zeal, I'd rather have a church full of zealous preachers than a church full of mass back baptist men like

B. Scene of Difficulty - His excitement, however well meaning, it was was cause a difficult situation for the ministry of our Lord. He was hindered, prevented. More than likely the focus became more on healer instead of teaching. Drives of people coming w/ eyes only for his hands and not his life. Closely guard

C. Sovereign Drawing - Despite the detour and the desert and the distance. They still came. Not to worry! Don't lose sleep well did I say the wrong thing? If a man will respond to the light given (creation conscience), Christ will be found of them. I often quote, In 6:37. Chn has leave out first part. I like Acts 2:47 Be faithful!

V. Closing

...into a permissive will of God.

...who won't hit a lick at a snake. But in our exuberance we must be careful to be obedient to Christ, let we hinder his continuing work. It's not all about you or me anymore. It's about the kingdom of God. In our zeal for righteousness, we can cause a weaker brother to stumble. Just this past week, I heard of one that was condemned "called out" for something that could have been left to Christian grown and maturity. I don't know all the circumstances surrounding the event, but I do know that that family's life is now shipwrecked and they are out of church.

...your presentation of Christ, lest you present Him solely as miracle worker instead of Messiah.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Acts 2:47 ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.